

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN JEWRY

COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM

COUNCIL FOR GERMAN JEWRY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

233-237, Bloomsbury House,
Bloomsbury Street,
W.C. 1.

30th August, 1939.

Rt. Hon. The Marquess of Reading,
Council for German Jewry,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place,
W.C. 1.

Dear Lord Reading,

I am desired by the Committee to refer to Mr. Stephany's letter of the 31st July, enclosing the report of Professor Orwin on Tythrop House.

The Committee have had disturbing reports from other sources in regard to Tythrop House. The Tythrop House Committee, and Mr. Solomon, their Chairman, have emphasised the independence of Tythrop House from this Committee, and have consistently refused facilities for any member of this Committee to make an investigation, and we are, therefore, unable to say how far these reports are correct. But in view of Professor Orwin's report, we decided to withdraw 12 girls whom we had in training at Tythrop House.

For some time past, refugees applied for by Tythrop House have not been able to be taken by Tythrop House, and this Committee has stepped into the breach and placed them in order that they should not fall on relief. The Tythrop House Committee have in addition sent up upwards of 20 cases which have been at Tythrop House for some time, and told them to apply to this Committee. This is an impossible procedure, and we have been forced to return the cases to Tythrop House, as we had no means of placing them.

We understand that the Council for German Jewry still has a sum of £500 out of the grant they recently made to Tythrop House, before this Committee was constituted. The cases applied for by Tythrop House, and which they were unable to take, may involve this Committee in expenditure which may reach the figure of £500. We suggest, therefore, that the Council for German Jewry should not pay over this £500 to the Tythrop House Committee, but should hold it in reserve in case it is required for these cases.

It is very undesirable that there should be an institution for training refugees supported by the Council for German Jewry, over which the Council has no control, either directly, or in the case of agriculture, through this Committee. We suggest, therefore, that the Council for German Jewry should arrange for the re-organisation of the Tythrop House Committee on

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a satisfactory basis, and for such control.

If this is impossible, we propose to write to the Home Office that we think all training institutes for agricultural refugees should be inspected and controlled by the Home Office, or by some recognised refugee committee, and that in the case of Tythrop House, we have had disturbing reports, and we will send a copy of Professor Orwin's report, with which we fully concur. We should also explain that the Tythrop House Committee is completely independent, and that we had no control over it.

I should be much obliged if you would kindly let me have a reply for the next Meeting of this Committee, which will take place on Tuesday, 5th September, at 5 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) C. Waley Cohen.

Council for German Jewry: Letter from the Agricultural Committee.
30 Aug. 1939. TS Archives of the Central British Fund for World
Jewish Relief, 1933-1960